

# K-12 Out-of-Boundary Lottery

## School Year 2013-2014

The Out-of-Boundary Lottery is a school choice service offered by DCPS to allow parents to apply for available seats at a school other than their child's assigned school(s). To find your child's assigned school(s), please visit [dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/schools](http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/schools). This lottery is *not* for children attending their current school as an out-of-boundary student (see #8 below) or for those seeking admission to a selective citywide high school (see [dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/hsoa](http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/hsoa)).

### Fast Facts:

- The Out-of-Boundary Lottery application period for the 2013-2014 school year **begins on January 28 and ends on February 25**. Please check [dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov) one week prior to the opening of the lottery for specific opening and closing times.
- Each applicant may apply to up to six out-of-boundary schools.
- DC Municipal Regulations state that children applying for kindergarten must turn 5 years old by September 30, 2013.
- The lottery application must be completed online; no paper applications will be accepted.
- Results will be posted online on March 8, and mailed home with enrollment forms the week of April 1.
- Applicants who receive a seat through the lottery must submit a completed enrollment packet by May 1 in order to claim their seat. Applicants must be prepared to verify residency and sibling preferences at this time.

### FAQ Section:

#### 1. If I apply early in the application period, will I have a better chance of being accepted?

No. As long as you apply between January 28 and February 25, there is no advantage to applying early.

#### 2. If my child has a sibling at the school to which I'm applying, or lives near the school, do I have a better chance of being accepted?

Yes. The DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) allow for a preference in the lottery for a particular school if your child has a sibling at the school, or if your child lives within a reasonable walking distance of a school. If admitted with a "sibling preference," you must be prepared to prove that your children are siblings when registering at the school.

#### 3. How does the lottery work?

- After the application period ends on February 25, each applicant is assigned a random number for each school he/she applied to.
- The applicants for each grade at each school will then be sorted in order of random number.
- Applicants will be placed into available seats in their particular grade at each school based on their preference order and random number order. See below for the order of preferences for the K-12 Out-of-Boundary lottery:
  1. Students with a sibling at the school will be placed first, in order of random number.
  2. Students who live within walking distance\* of the school will be placed next, in order of random number.
  3. Any remaining seats will go to students who do not receive either of the above preferences, in order of random number.
- Applicants who are matched with more than one school through the lottery will be offered a seat at the school they ranked higher, and moved to the waitlist for any other school(s) they ranked higher than the one where they received a seat, in the preference order described above.
- Waitlists will be created after all seats in a particular grade at a school are filled, so that students who are not offered a seat will appear on the waitlist in the preference order described above.

*Exceptions: For dual-language programs, preferences #2 and #3 above are reversed in order to support the programs' language acquisition goals. As a citywide school, the Capitol Hill Montessori School at Logan does not grant in-boundary preference.*

#### 4. Does the order in which I rank my choices affect my lottery results?

Yes. If, during the lottery, a student is matched with more than one school, he/she will be offered a seat at the school they ranked higher, and moved to the waitlist(s) of any school(s) they ranked higher than the one where they received a seat.

\*DC Municipal Regulations [B 2106.3](#) defines "reasonable walking distance" to be a theoretical square oriented north-south with the school in the center and the sides measuring 3000 feet for elementary schools and education campuses and 5000 feet for middle schools.

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**5. Can my child be accepted to more than one school? If we get into a school, what happens to our application for the other school(s)?**

In order to maximize the number of applicants who receive a seat at a school to which they've applied, students will not be admitted to more than one school through the Out-of-Boundary Lottery. Applicants will be placed on the waitlist at each school they ranked higher than the one where they received a seat (see #3 above for preference order). It is possible to be placed on the waitlist at all school selections.

**6. How will I know if any seats are available at a particular school?**

When you select the school and the grade to which you are applying, the application will indicate the number of seats the school anticipates that they will offer at that particular grade during the 2013-2014 school year.

**7. I'm submitting Out-of-Boundary Lottery and/or Preschool/Pre-k Lottery applications for more than one child, and I'd like them to be admitted to the same school. Is this possible?**

Each child's application is treated independently in the Preschool/Pre-K and Out-of-Boundary Lotteries; therefore, if one sibling is admitted to a particular school, there is no guarantee that the other will be able to attend the same school. However, DCPS seeks to accommodate families by elevating children to the top of the waitlist for their grade at a school if their sibling was admitted to that school through the lottery (behind siblings of currently enrolled students).

**8. My child attends their current school as an out-of-boundary student. Do I need to reapply to keep him/her at the school next year? OR, if he/she is moving to middle or high school next year, do I need to apply through the Out-of-Boundary Lottery to secure a seat at my school's "destination school" in the feeder pattern?**

No. DCPS seeks to create consistent pathways for students throughout their school years. Thus, all out-of-boundary students who are admitted to a school receive the right to continue attending that school through all its available grades, as well as to attend the school's destination school in the feeder pattern. To find your school's destination school, please visit [profiles.dcps.dc.gov](http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov).

**9. Where can I learn more about the school(s) I'm interested in applying to?**

Visit [profiles.dcps.dc.gov](http://profiles.dcps.dc.gov) for more information about DCPS schools including school profiles, and open house dates.

**10. If my child has an IEP can I apply through the lottery?**

Yes, if you have questions regarding your child's specific program, please contact 202-442-5400.

**11. How do I apply to a specialized citywide high school?**

All students interested in attending a specialized citywide high school must apply using an online application. The online application becomes available on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and is due on December 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit our website at [dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/hsoa](http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/hsoa).

**12. How do I complete an application if I don't have Internet access?**

If you don't have Internet access, there are several ways that you can complete the application.

- Visit your local library for free Internet use.
- Stop by your neighborhood DCPS School. The front office staff can help you complete an application on a school computer.
- Call our Critical Response Team (CRT) at 202-478-5738. The CRT will gladly work with you over the phone to submit an application.

**14. My address may change between the lottery and the start of school year 2013 – 2014, how do I fill out my application?**

- Applicants must be able to verify walking distance preferences received at time of residency verification (May 1 for families receiving a seat through the lottery). Address verification at the time of enrollment will be used to confirm walking distance preferences.
- *If you receive a preference based on a DC address listed on your application, and are unable to prove residency at that address by May 1, you risk forfeiting your seat and/or place on the waitlist.*
- Please visit our website at [dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/help](http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/help) for information about how to enroll and prove residency.